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## Book Charges Lying by CIA Brass

A veteran CIA agent has just written an explosive book, charging that the agency's top brass has repeatedly lied about secret operations to the public, the Congress and even the president. The revelations could stymie the congressional campaign to loosen the leash on the CIA.

The agent, Ralph McGehee, spent 25 years with the CIA in a variety of assignments. He has produced an unpublished manuscript that debunks many of the CIA's arguments for greater secrecy. My associate Dale Van Atta interviewed McGehee, and was allowed to examine the book-length manuscript.

McGehee is no Philip Agee, out to destroy the CIA by identifying former colleagues and endangering their lives. But his disillusionment runs deep, and he lays out the reasons for it articulately on moral grounds.

"I did not reach my apostasy easily," he explains, noting that he chose the CIA for a career in 1952, fresh out of Notre Dame, where he played four years on undefeated football teams.

Essentially, McGehee charges that the CIA uses secrecy to cover up incompetence, bureaucratic bungling and illegal activities. "Other than identity of sources and any unique technological collection processes," he writes, the CIA "does not have any secrets to protect."

Here are some of McGehee's charges:

- "It has been my observation that most everything an agency official says about the agency is either false or so misleading as to convey a greatly false impression."

- Every word in public announce-

ments by CIA officials should be examined for deception. For instance, the word "currently," as in, "we currently no longer employ American journalists as CIA operatives," may mean nothing more than that they were fired in time for the announcement and then rehired.

- Articles on the CIA in Time and Newsweek two years ago "drew upon official CIA sources who continued their policy of undeviating dishonesty." For example, one of the stories reported that a human agent provided the first solid evidence that China was about to set off an atom bomb, "thereby scooping the spy satellites." McGehee had been assigned to check that claim and found it to be untrue — but it suited the purposes of CIA brass who wanted to justify use of human agents.

- President Ford was given a glowing account of a superspy with supposed access to critical inside information. "Not mentioned was the fact that the agent had been completely unproductive, and . . . his meager salary of less than \$100 a month had been suspended."

Footnote: McGehee dutifully submitted his manuscript to the CIA, and made the deletions ordered. The agency has refused to comment to us.

**Informing Ivan** — The chill in Soviet-American relations hasn't interrupted the flow of U.S. government publications that are shipped regularly to the Soviet Union, courtesy of the American taxpayers.

The U.S. government exchanges publications with several countries. The Soviet Union, as you might guess, gets the best of the swap — six times

more pamphlets packed with 100 times more information.

This annoys Sen. James Sasser (D-Tenn.), who has conducted his own private investigation. Here are some of his findings:

- It cost \$12,000 in fiscal year 1979 to send the Kremlin some 23,000 documents, including the Defense Intelligence Agency's "Review of Soviet Ground Forces" and CIA maps and atlases of Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, Angola, Pakistan, Israel and South Korea.

- It cost just about as much in the same period to see that Fidel Castro received government publications, including copies of the U.S. Army's field manual, technical manual and a guide to the Lance missile.

- Even the Iranian government is on Uncle Sam's free mailing list. The hostage holders get some 3,100 publications at a cost of \$1,800 that year.

The cost figures, incidentally, don't include mailing, which is also paid by the American taxpayers.